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REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

In view of the foregoing amendments and the following remarks, the applicants respectfully submit that the pending claims comply with 35 U.S.C. § 112 and are not anticipated under 35 U.S.C. § 102. Accordingly, it is believed that this application is in condition for allowance. If, however, the Examiner believes that there are any unresolved issues, or believes that some or all of the claims are not in condition for allowance, the applicants respectfully request that the Examiner contact the undersigned to schedule a telephone Examiner Interview before any further actions on the merits.

The applicants will now address each of the issues raised in the outstanding Office Action:

Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 112

The Examiner has rejected claims 6, 7 and 9 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the invention. The applicants respectfully request that the Examiner reconsider and withdraw this ground of rejection in view of the following.

Claim 6, as amended, obviates the problem noted by the Examiner. Claims 7 and 9 have been canceled. Therefore, this ground of rejection should be withdrawn.

Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 102

Claims 1-17 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,390,693 ("the Miyamoto patent"). The applicants respectfully request that the Examiner reconsider and withdraw this ground of rejection in view of the following.

First, since claims 2-4, 7, 9, 12 and 15-17 have been canceled, this ground of rejection is rendered moot with respect to these claims.

Independent claim 1, as amended, is not anticipated by the Miyamoto patent because the Miyamoto patent does not teach the claimed optical unit including an optical member which receives a light beam from an object **such that the light beam is bent at a substantially right angle**. This feature is supported, for example, by FIGS. 1C, 2A, 4B, etc., of the present application.

The Miyamoto patent discloses a straight-type lens device. The Examiner contends that ordinary lenses (31 and 32) in the Miyamoto patent are "reflection optical members." The applicants respectfully disagree. A lens, such as that 31 or 32 in the Miyamoto patent, has a function of converging light from an object (if it is a convex lens) or diverging the light (if it is a concave lens), to form an image. Although such lenses can **bend light**, they do not **bend an optical axis** (the center of a "pencil of light"). More specifically, the axis of light leaving the lens of the Miyamoto patent is the same as that of light incident on the lens -- i.e., it is kept linear. As understood by one of ordinary skill in the

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art, such an ordinary lens would not be considered to be a reflection member (such as a prism or a mirror).


Thus, claim 1, as amended, is not anticipated by the Miyamoto patent for at least the foregoing reason. Since claims 5, 6, 8, 10, 11, 13 and 14 depend, either directly or indirectly, from claim 1, these claims are similarly not anticipated by the Miyamoto patent.

Conclusion

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, the applicant respectfully submits that the pending claims are in condition for allowance. Accordingly, the applicants request that the Examiner pass this application to issue.

Respectfully submitted,

February 28, 2007

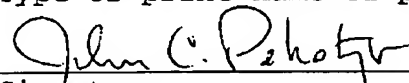

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